



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Washington, D.C. 20230

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL

The Honorable Fred W. Thiele, Jr.
New York State Assembly
Albany, New York 12248

MAR 31 2003

Dear Assemblyman Thiele:

Thank you for your letter to Secretary Evans concerning the Islander East Pipeline Company's administrative appeal filed under the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) and currently pending before the Department of Commerce. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) processes many aspects of CZMA appeals for the Secretary of Commerce, and therefore was asked to respond to your correspondence.

Islander East's appeal, as noted in your letter, is taken from an objection raised by the State of Connecticut. In deciding the appeal, the Secretary generally must consider the proposed project's effects on land or water uses or natural resources of Connecticut's coastal zone. Your letter expresses concerns about the pipeline's potential impacts to the Long Island Sound and the Long Island Pine Barrens. To the extent these resources affect Connecticut's coastal zone, your concerns fall within the scope of the Islander East appeal. With regard to impacts from the pipeline that affect New York's coastal zone resources, we understand that the New York Department of State has issued a general CZMA concurrence for the Islander East project.

Please be assured all information contained in the appeal record that relates to issues the Secretary considers in deciding the appeal will be carefully reviewed, and that your letter will be included in the Islander East administrative record. Further, we welcome any additional submissions that you or your constituents believe are relevant to the Secretary's decision. Information about the appeal, including the deadline for public comment and the recently announced stay in the appeal's proceedings, can be found at the Department's CZMA appeals website www.ogc.doc.gov/czma.htm.

Thank you again for writing on this important matter.

Sincerely,

James R. Walpole
General Counsel





FRED W. THIELE, JR.
Assemblyman 2nd District

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY MAR 18 AM 10:41

RANKING MINORITY MEMBER
Judiciary Committee

COMMITTEES
Ways and Means
Environmental Conservation
Natural Resources

March 4, 2003

The Honorable Donald Evans
U.S. Department of Commerce
Herbert C. Hoover Building
14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Mr. Secretary:


I have recently been informed that the Islander East Pipeline Company is appealing to the Department of Commerce to overturn the State of Connecticut's denial of a permit needed for the construction of their interstate pipeline.

I have previously written to Secretary Magalie Roman Salas of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to express my strong concerns over this project. As a member of the New York State Legislature who represents areas of the Pine Barrens, I am disturbed at the fact that the proposed pipeline does not comply with Connecticut's Coastal Management Program, which was created to protect the Long Island Sound. In addition, the proposal would destroy more than 23 acres of the Core Preservation Area would be lost due to the construction of the gas pipeline on the Route 25 Lateral. Should the Department of Commerce reverse Connecticut's decision, unnecessary destruction of the Long Island Sound and the Pine Barrens would ensue. This would be extremely detrimental to the efforts of those who have fought so hard over the years to preserve this resource. As you can see, I remain most troubled about the environmental impacts to the Long Island Pine Barrens and the Long Island Sound. Both are irreplaceable natural resources and are vital to our region's economy.

While I understand that the Islander East pipeline will serve as an important source of natural gas supply for Long Island, this project must comply with all sensible conservation measures and laws already in place. Until the Islander East Pipeline Company is able to meet these obligations, the Department of Commerce must not reverse Connecticut's decision.

I thank you in advance for your utmost attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,


Fred W. Thiele, Jr.
Member of Assembly

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